



Educational Models and Practices in Theological Education Project Innovation Grants, Request for Proposals

As part of its project on Educational Models and Practices in Theological Education, the Association of Theological Schools requests proposals from member schools for grants of up to \$50,000 to explore innovative approaches to theological education. As many as 40 grants will be awarded to pilot new initiatives or to support and advance work that is already underway. The grants are not intended to enable schools to duplicate what is already happening elsewhere. Rather, the funding is designed to assist schools in the process of designing, developing, and implementing educational models and practices of theological education that break new ground and have the possibility of producing models and practices that could be effective and of benefit to the participating school and the broader community of schools.

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- are truly innovative,
- give evidence of cooperation between offices and departments within the school, and consultation with constituencies served by the school's graduates, and
- can contribute to the knowledge of theological education and its possible forms.

Proposals may be for assistance with aspects of larger projects or particular experiments. A portion of the grant funds may be used for personnel costs if needed to offset time given to the project by faculty or staff.

Please note: grants may not be used to support programs that are not in compliance with the Standards of Accreditation. If exception or experimental status is required, the school must follow the appropriate procedures to receive permission before the grant can be approved. If a petition for exception or experiment is in process, a grant may be approved *pending approval* of the petition by the Board of Commissioners.

Proposals should include:

1. the project information page, with signatures of the project director(s) and the authorization contact,
2. a project proposal (attached as a separate document), and
3. the project budget page.

The project information page should include a project abstract of approximately 150 words, and information about the project director(s), the financial contact person, and the person authorized to sign grant requests for the institution.

Grant Application Instructions (continued)

The project proposal (roughly 1,500 words) must:

- give a brief background of how the project fits within the school's existing programming and strategic planning, and the school's capacity to pursue the project at this time,
- describe the project's goals, both immediate and longer term,
- describe the project's activities, the personnel involved, and the timeline of implementation, and
- describe collaborations within the institution and/or with the institution's external constituencies, including processes of input from collaborators and expected benefits.

The project budget page should include line items for expenditures and a brief narrative describing the purposes of particular expenditures.

ATS expects the following from those receiving grants: (1) the project director(s) to attend two Small Grant Forums, **in the fall 2017 and the fall 2018**, to discuss their school's work; and (2) submit a report of approximately 2,500 words on the grant activities and highlighting what was learned through the process. The project report, due on **May 1, 2018**, will be circulated to those attending the **fall 2018** consultation and may be published in the Association's journal, *Theological Education*. ATS will cover travel, lodging, and other costs of the forums. Signatures on the grant application form serve as agreement to these conditions.